



- A Community for Education
- AIDS Services of Austin
- American YouthWorks
- Any Baby Can
- ASCEND Center for Learning
- Austin Area Urban League
- Austin Child Guidance Center
- Austin Children's Shelter
- Austin Clubhouse
- Austin Free-Net
- Austin Groups for the Elderly
- Austin Partners in Education
- Austin Travis County Integral Care
- AVANCE
- Blackland CDC
- BookSpring
- Boys and Girls Club of Austin
- Camp Fire USA Balcones Council
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Capital IDEA
- Caritas of Austin
- Casa Marianella
- CASA of Travis County
- Catholic Charities of Central TX
- Center for Child Protection
- Child Inc.
- Communities In Schools
- Council on At-Risk Youth
- Easter Seals Central TX
- Eastside Community Connection
- ECHO
- El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission
- Extend-A-Care for Kids
- Faith In Action Caregivers
- Family Eldercare
- Foundation Communities
- Foundation for the Homeless
- Front Steps
- Goodwill Industries of Central TX
- HAND
- Lance Armstrong Foundation
- Leadership Austin
- LifeWorks
- Literacy Coalition of Central TX
- Lone Star Association of Charitable Clinics
- Meals on Wheels and More
- Open Door Preschool
- Partnerships for Children
- People's Community Clinic
- Project Transitions
- SafePlace
- Southwest Key Programs, Inc.
- Sustainable Food Center
- The Arc of the Capital Area
- The Austin Project
- The Care Communities
- The Settlement Home for Children
- Trinity Center
- United Way Capital Area
- Vaughn House
- Volunteer Healthcare Clinic
- Waterloo Counseling Center
- Wonders & Worries

## Late Backup

July 23, 2012

Re: Affordable Housing in Bond Package

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and City Council Members

As you begin the difficult decision regarding the size of the bond package, One Voice Central Texas and its members urge you to support the inclusion of a **minimum of \$100 million for affordable housing.**

Part of the Imagine Austin vision is that Austin is a city where "the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all." Safe and affordable housing is a critical necessity that is becoming increasingly out of reach to many residents, particularly the working poor. An article in the July 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 Austin American-Statesman cited:

- 97.8% rental occupancy rate in the Austin area
- Average rental rates for a one bedroom apartment reaching an all-time high of \$819, and
- Experts forecasting that tight rental conditions will continue for the foreseeable future.

The challenge for obtaining affordable housing is not going to get easier:

- The Austin area continues rapid growth
- The Texas Workforce Commission estimates that education, health care, and food services will gain the most jobs in the next six years. The Commission also projects that these will be the largest areas of employment in Travis County by 2012 and will supply over 265,000 jobs. Nearly 30% of those jobs have a median wage of less than \$10 per hour (WorkSource)
- The City's 'Comprehensive Housing Market Study' in 2009, showed a gap of 37,600 units of affordable housing for households making less than \$20,000 a year
- The Corporation for Supportive Housing identified the need for 1,889 units of permanent supportive housing
- Low income individuals often require housing that is close to public transportation, which generally means being close to the city core

The community has a history of effectively using housing bonds. Following the 2006 approval of \$55 million in housing bonds:

- 2,242 units were developed or rehabilitated to provide deeply affordable housing units (HousingWorks)

- The units were geographically dispersed in Austin
- An additional \$177 million in development expenditure from additional federal, state, and private funding has been leveraged (City of Austin NHCD)
- Repaired the homes of over 500 low income homeowners, 80% of them seniors or disabled.

When One Voice Central Texas members were asked the most pressing needs impacting their clients, they identified affordable and safe housing that is close to transportation as critical.

The City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department's Action Plan states that "to assist in closing that gap the City will continue to prioritize resources to affordable housing projects that serve very-low income households." **One Voice Central Texas urges the City to continue this commitment to prioritizing affordable housing and include a minimum of \$100 million in housing bonds in the proposal that is presented to voters this November.**

On behalf of our members and clients, we thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance or if you have any questions.

R,  


John McNabb  
One Voice Central Texas 2012 Chair  
ED, Vaughn House  
OP/TIY: 512-444-6081  
[john.mcnabb@vaughnhouse.org](mailto:john.mcnabb@vaughnhouse.org)

CC: City Manager, Mr. Marc Ott

